

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 THE HAGUE 002492

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR AC/CB, NP/CBM, VC/CCB, L/ACV, IO/S
SECDEF FOR OSD/ISP
JOINT STAFF FOR DD PMA-A FOR WTC
COMMERCE FOR BIS (GOLDMAN)
NSC FOR JOECK
WINPAC FOR LIEPMAN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [CWC](#)

SUBJECT: CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC): WEEKLY WRAP-UP
FOR 24 SEPTEMBER 2004

This is CWC-113-04.

MEETINGS ON RABTA CONVERSION REQUEST

1. (SBU) Representatives from the U.S., U.K., Italy and Libya met on September 21 to discuss the state of play regarding adoption of the technical change that would allow for conversion of the Rabta facility. The participants decided on specific tasks to be accomplished in the run-up to a one-time consultation called to discuss the issue. That consultation was the result of a proposal by Executive Council Chairman Arrospe (Peru) to discover whether any State Party has problems with the proposed technical change. The discussion has been set for Friday, October 1 and will be chaired by Ambassador Saboia (Brazil).

2. (U) As a result of the September 21 meeting, it was agreed that Libya would contact Brazil, Iran, India, Sri Lanka, Russia and Pakistan to fully determine whether they have any objections to the technical change. The Libyans also would prepare an introductory briefing for presentation at the October 1 consultation. They would inform the Technical Secretariat of the need to include Serbia-Montenegro and Greece as co-sponsors. The Libyans would also work with the UK to determine if Turkey wishes to become a new co-sponsor. The Libyans also said they would contact all co-sponsors as well as Argentina, China and Cuba to encourage them to speak out in support of the proposal at the consultation.

3. (U) The UK agreed to organize a meeting with DG Pfirter, the EC Chairman, the Brazilian Ambassador, Legal Advisor Onate, Sylwin Gizowski (director of the Policy-Making Organs), and the Libyans to coordinate thoroughly on the October 1 consultation. They also said they would contact Amb. Vogelaar (Netherlands) to request vocal EU support for the initiative. The Italians said they would arrange a meeting of regional group coordinators to encourage them to offer vocal support for the initiative. The U.S. agreed to prepare and circulate copies of draft report language and also inform others of discussions Ambassador Javits would have with the Russian Ambassador on Rabta conversion.

4. (U) Experts from the U.S., U.K., Italy, FRG, Technical Secretariat and Libya met on September 22 to go over comments

SIPDIS

concerning the Libyan conversion request for Rabta. In a good meeting lasting 2 1/2 hours, the U.S. was the only delegation to have significant comments. The Libyans were accommodating to all suggestions. The Germans said that they still needed to finish reviewing the document and with some prodding said they would provide comments by Oct. 1. The TS provided a copy of a Russian CWP conversion corrigendum as an example of the customary format, and the Libyans said they would provide changes within 48 hours. Details on equipment, materials of construction and capacity will be provided as an amended declaration, which will be cross-referenced in the conversion request.

ARTICLE VII

5. (U) The TS issued the latest progress report on the status of the action plan on national implementation under Article VII. The report is a vast improvement on the two previous editions. Not only is it more informative, the information is laid out much more clearly. That does not, however, have any impact on the disappointing results in the report. Facilitator Mark Matthews (UK) has commented that there has been insufficient progress to date, and appreciates the U.S. willingness to highlight this issue at the upcoming

EC. Meeting the CSP-10 deadline will be difficult even if the TS and SPs start now in pressing for compliance by all SPs. The next consultation on Article VII will be on October 6 to review the paper and discuss the recommendations.

2005 BUDGET - STAFFING ISSUES

16. (U) The September 21 budget consultations focused on human resources, consultancy services and General Temporary Assistance (GTA) needs. Deputy DG Hawtin began by outlining the five ways that the OPCW employs people: fixed-term contracts, short-term contracts (consisting of Temporary Assistance Contracts (TAC) who can work up to one year and truly short-term contracts of four months or less), consultants, outsourcing (gardeners, window washers, etc.), and (potentially) secondments. The DDG noted that of the 507 authorized full time (FT) positions, only 478 were currently funded and that the full 507 positions had not been funded since 2002. Head of Administration Schulz added that of the 478 funded positions, 52 were currently vacant as a result of turnover and the tenure policy, and this further necessitated the use of TACs to keep the organization functioning.

17. (U) The DDG defended the use of TACs for extended periods stating that TACs were used only when it was operationally necessary and that the TS hoped to convert many of the TACs to FT positions in the future. Converting the 20 security guards from TAC to FT would be the first step in this process. The TS distributed a list of all 66 positions filled by TACs as of September 21. Sixteen of the positions have been staffed with TACs for more than a year and in some cases up to five years. TAC's employed for more than 3 months also take part in the Provident Fund.

18. (U) The TS also reviewed their proposal to increase the number of authorized (though not necessarily funded) positions from 507 to 527 of which 30 security positions would be "ringed off" and could only be used for security. In a side-bar discussion, the French del rep told us that in their analysis the number of people actually paid by the OPCW would not be affected by this increase in authorized positions when the resulting reduction of TACs was factored in. The French promised to provide us with a non-paper illustrating this point. Several dels (including the U.S.) made clear they would like to further review this proposed increase in authorized positions.

19. (U) Austria asked about the status of the political consultant working on universality on the Korean peninsula. The DDG promised to provide more information on the work of the consultant and the status of his contract. Austria also queried the DDG about the 60% proposed increase in GTA expenditures and the legal implications of converting selected TAC positions to FT status. The DDG ascribed most of this increase to the necessity of hiring TACs to work in Human Resources as a result of a three-fold increase in the number of hirings this year (a result of tenure). He said he did not believe there would be any legal implications in converting some TAC positions to FT positions as the FT jobs would be advertised and open to all candidates, as opposed to simply converting the employees in TAC status to FT status.

110. (U) Several delegations asked the DDG about the number of "non-political" consultants hired by the TS. The DDG said that consultants have only been engaged when their experience was needed in very specific cases, such as legal matters associated with tenure implementation or the case brought by former DG Bustani, and the TS has made every effort to be as transparent as possible on the consultancy issue. Finally, Algeria and South Africa encouraged the TS to consider geographic representations when filling any new FT positions.

2005 BUDGET - ARTICLE VI INSPECTIONS

111. (U) Consultations on Article VI inspections were held on September 23, and began with the TS announcing that it hoped to produce an information paper on the progress it has made on optimization of verification and the impact on inspections. They noted, for example, that the cost of an average Article VI inspection was likely to decrease from 14,000 euros in 2004 to 11,000 euros in 2005. The TS has proposed an 8% increase in Article VI inspections from 150 in 2004 to 162 in 2005. The TS also stated that due to a shortfall in the training budget, new inspectors would now receive a 7-week training course and then accompany teams on inspections as a type of on the job training. In the short run this would necessitate slightly larger inspection teams (one additional trainee per team).

112. (U) Most of the consultations focused on the proposed increase in OCPF inspections from 70 in 2004 to 80 in 2005. The UK, U.S., Canada, Italy, FRG, Austria and France all

supported the proposed increase, with the U.S., UK, France and Canada pushing for even more OCPF inspections in 2005. The DDG noted the support of some SPs for increased OCPF inspections, but that SPs had to also realize that an increase in inspections would necessitate an increase in resources. Iran, Brazil, and to a lesser degree China and Algeria, opposed the increase in OCPF inspections, with Brazil noting that it had no instructions yet but may not be able to support an increase of 10 OCPF inspections. All three countries cited the need to focus on destruction and the inspection of Schedule 1 and 2 sites as their rationale for opposing the increase in OCPF inspections. (Note: most WEOG delegations told us that they anticipate no changes to the inspection numbers proposed in the 2005 budget.)

ARTICLE X

113. (U) On September 20, del reps met with Gabrielle Kruger (U.K.) facilitator for Article X to raise U.S. concerns regarding the current revised draft format for the annual reporting of information on national programmes for protection against CW. The meeting was held in preparation for the September 29 consultation on the draft document. Kruger agreed to make a number of the U.S.-proposed changes in text from the chair, and also provided responses to specific U.S. questions. There was agreement on proposed language that was sent back to Washington for consideration.

114. (U) Javits sends.

SOBEL